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Dispute between the workers and the management of the Deccan Sugar and Abkari Company, Limited, Pugalur, Tiruchirappalli district.

* 1418 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) Whether the Government have received any representations from the Sugar Factory Mill Workers' Union of the Pugalur Sugar Factory, Tiruchirappalli district, alleging large-scale retrenchment of workers and conversion of a large number of workers as casual labourers; and

(*b*) what steps the Government have taken to settle the dispute between the workers and management in this regard?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The Government have received a representation from the Deccan Sugar and Abkhari Company, Limited, Workers' Union, Pugalur, alleging cut in wages and non-employment of about fifty workers on the re-opening of the factory on 1st March 1954.

" (*b*) The Government, after considering the conciliation report of the Labour Officer, have decided that there is no case for intervention on any of the disputes raised by the union. The union has been informed accordingly."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்த கம்பெனியின் மானேஜ்மெண்டை பாரி கம்பெனியே பார்ப்பதாக கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்ன பதிலில் இருந்து தெரியவருகிறது. பாரி கம்பெனியும் பிரிட்டிஷ் கம்பெனியாக இருப்பதனால் இந்த மாதிரி அட்ஜுடிகேஷன் விஷயத்தில் என்ன கொள்கை கையாளப்படுகிறது ?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I need not seriously refute the insinuation made by the hon. Member. Each case is examined on its merits. Only after close examination of all aspects, we decided not to refer this matter for adjudication. I shall give the reasons :

(1) *Re-employment of fifty permanent workers.*—It has been reported that the management and the union have come to an understanding as a result of the intervention of the growers of Pugalur. No action is therefore considered necessary regarding their re-employment.

(2) The workers were discharged at the time of the closure of the concern and they would have no further claim on the company. They were recruited afresh purely on a temporary basis when the factory was opened for a short duration at the request of the cane growers on new terms of contract. The terms about an all inclusive wage were clearly indicated in the notice put up by the management and the workers accepted to work under the new conditions. The workers could therefore have no grievance that they were not paid wages at the old rates.

It was on these considerations that Government could not refer this matter to adjudication."

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SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" மானேஜ்மெண்டு தொழில் சட்டங்களுக்கு, அதாவது தொழிலாளர்களை வேலையிலிருந்து நீக்குவது, பிறகு அவர்களை அமர்த்துவது, வேலையாட்களின் சம்பளத்தைக் குறைப்பது, வேலை நிறுத்தம், மில்களை மூடுவது முதலியன பற்றியும், மறைமுகமாக கையாளும் முறை சர்க்காருக்கு தெரியுமா? இவைபோன்றவைகளுக்கு சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கப்போகிறார்கள்?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Where it has been brought to the notice of Government that any particular management have purposely disallowed the just claims of workers, necessary action is being taken by Government against the concerned management. So far as this matter is concerned, the factory has to be closed down because the sugarcane growers struck work and refused to supply cane to the factory."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" புகலூர் தொழிற்சாலையில் தொழிலாளர்களின் கூலியை ஒரு பாயிண்டுக்கு 2½ அணாவிலிருந்து 2 அணாவாக குறைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த மாதிரியாக தொழிற்சாலைகளில் தொழிலாளர்களின் கூலியைக் குறைப்பதன் காரணத்தினால் தொழிலாளிகள் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இந்த விதமான கஷ்டங்களை நீக்கி சர்க்கார் சீக்கிரமாக நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க முன்வருமா?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered that Government could not do anything in the matter."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" What is the harm in referring this particular dispute to adjudication? Surely the Industrial Tribunal can judge for itself whether the Pugalur factory's closure was *bona fide* or not and whether there had been any reduction in wages? Why should the Government judge things for themselves? If this is the attitude that Government take with regard to every industrial dispute, then why have any Industrial Tribunal?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It cannot be expected that Government should invariably refer each and every industrial dispute for adjudication. Just as some good lawyers refuse to accept a brief, Government have got to refuse to refer a matter for adjudication in cases where they have valid reasons to believe that it is not a fit case. If they think that it is a fit case for the workers, they refer the case for adjudication. Wherein they are convinced that it is not a fit case for workers, Government just as some good lawyers refuse to accept a brief, do not refer the matter for adjudication so as to save the workers from litigation."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் நான் சொல்லக்கூடிய குற்றச்சாட்டுகளை விருப்பு வெறுப்பு இன்றி பார்க்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். பாரி கம்பெனி இன்றைய கரும்பு நிலச்சுவாந்தார்களுடன் கூடிப்பேசி தொழிலாளர்கள்மீது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க உதவி செய்வதற்கு ஒப்பந்தம் செய்துகொண்டு கரும்பு கிடைக்கவில்லை என்று தொழிலாளர்களை வேலையில்லையென்று சொல்லி நீக்கிவிட்டார்கள். உண்மையாகப்பார்த்தால் கரும்புக் குறைவு ஒன்றும் இல்லை. ஆதலால் இதை மீண்டும் பரிசீலனை செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் முன்வருமா?"

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may say again I need not answer that insinuation. The information I have with me goes to show that the cane-growers refused to supply cane to the factory because they thought that they could earn better by converting it into jaggery."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Is it the contention of Government that even a demand for the restoration of a cut in daily wages is an unjust demand and that the same should not be referred to a tribunal for adjudication? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" We have been referring so many disputes for adjudication. Government examine every case on its merits."

Reconstruction of the bridge at Beltangadi on the Mangalore-Mysore Road.

* 1419 Q.—SRI K. VENKATRAMANA GOWDA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned under the Development Scheme the reconstruction of the bridge at Beltangadi, on the Mangalore-Mysore road;

(b) if so, why no provision has been made in the Budget for 1954–55;

(c) whether the Government propose to take up the work; and

(d) if so, when?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) The estimate was technically sanctioned only recently. Hence no provision could be made for it in the budget for 1954–55.

" (c) & (d) Tenders have been called for and the work is expected to be taken up for execution during this year."

Removal of silt from the Kalnad stream in Kasargode taluk, South Kanara district.

* 1420 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any information regarding the silting of the Kalnad stream in Kasargode taluk, South Kanara district; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove the silt?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (a) The Kalnad stream in Kasargode taluk has silted up for about 5,280 feet.

" (b) The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, has been asked to investigate the matter and his report is awaited."